

## National Indicator 8: Interim progress

### Statistical Release

17 June 2010

#### **Purpose of release**

This statistical release presents estimates relating to National Indicator 8 for all 353 local authorities<sup>1</sup> showing interim progress for assessment against the baseline. Data is collected via the Active People Survey and provided at both upper-tier and district level.

For NI8, the data published for County Councils and those authorities that have boosted sample sizes is based on the latest rolling 12 month period from the Active People Survey (April 2009 – April 2010). For the other authorities the NI8 published statistic is based on responses from the latest 24 month rolling period, giving a minimum sample size of 1000. In these cases, therefore, the NI8 statistic is based on data collected between April 2008 and April 2010.

#### **National Indicator 8 baseline**

In November 2008, Sport England published baseline estimates for National Indicator 8 – participation in sport and active recreation – for all local authorities using data collected between October 2005 and October 2006. This release of new estimates provides an assessment of progress against the baseline estimates by indicating any statistically significant changes.

#### **Next release of data**

Further interim data will be published for NI8 in December 2010 and June 2011. Final year NI8 data for the LAA will be published in December 2011. For county councils and local authorities that have boosted the sample size results will be based on Active People Survey 5 (October 2010 to October 2011). For single tier and district councils that have not boosted their sample, results will be based on the combined responses to Active People Surveys 4 & 5 to give a 1,000 sample size.

## **Data**

The estimates are available in the accompanying workbook. A map is provided, showing participation across the unitary and district authorities of England.

## **National Indicators 9 and 11**

In December 2008, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport published baseline estimates for National Indicators 9, 10 and 11 – participation in libraries, museums/galleries and the arts – for upper-tier local authorities using data collected between April and October 2008. Supplementary data published in June 2009 provided data for all local authorities to help upper-tier authorities understand the variations that exist within their area. In April 2010 the National Indicator set was reviewed and Indicator 10, visits to museums and galleries, was removed.

Final progress for NI9 and 11 will be assessed in December 2010 using data collected from October 2009 to October 2010 (Active People Survey 4). Data on visits to museums and galleries will be published alongside this.

## Background: National Indicators

In June 2008, local authorities agreed Local Area Agreements (LAAs) with Government and their partners. The LAAs include targets to improve public services and the quality of life for people living and working in the area. Local authorities chose up to 35 targets from a possible 198 in the National Indicator Set. The set was reduced to 188 in April 2008 and was reviewed again in April 2010, with the set reduced by a further 18 indicators. Indicator NI 10, visits to museums and galleries, was removed leaving DCMS with three National Indicators (NIs) within the Set:

NI 8 Participation in sport and active recreation

NI 9 Use of public libraries

NI 11 Engagement in the arts

The cultural and sport NIs relate to DCMS's broad aim to encourage more widespread enjoyment of culture and sport, and support talent and excellence. They aim to increase the take-up of cultural opportunities by those aged 16 and above living in a local authority (LA).

- NI 8 measures the percentage of the adult population in a LA who participated in sport and active recreation, at moderate intensity, for at least 30 minutes on at least 12 days out of the last four weeks (equivalent to 30 minutes on three or more days a week)<sup>1</sup>.
- NI 9 measures the percentage of adults in a LA who have used a public library service in the past 12 months. Use is for leisure purposes, including informal learning and studying or research for personal interests.
- NI 11 measures the percentage of adults in a LA who have either attended an arts event or participated in an arts activity at least three times in the past 12 months. Engagement must be for leisure purposes.

There is no geographical restriction placed on where the activity occurs, and it could therefore occur outside the respondent's local area. All arts activities and events are included, not only those funded by local authorities (however, NI 9 relates specifically to public library services).

Visits to museums and galleries:

Data on museums and galleries will continue to be collected. This provides a measure of the percentage of adults in a LA who have visited a museum or gallery in the past 12 months. Visits are for leisure purposes, including informal learning and studying or research for personal interests. Online access to collections and outreach services are not counted.

---

<sup>1</sup> See the NI 8 Technical Note, [http://www.sportengland.org/2008-03-06\\_ni8\\_technical\\_note\\_for\\_las\\_final.doc](http://www.sportengland.org/2008-03-06_ni8_technical_note_for_las_final.doc)

## Methodology

1. The Active People Survey was commissioned by Sport England in 2005. It measures adult (aged 16 and over) participation in sport and active recreation and other cultural activities in every local authority in England.
2. The Survey collects data via telephone interviews and in the first survey year October 2005 to October 2006 had an annual sample size of around 363,000 adults (aged 16 and over) – (a minimum of 1,000 interviews in every local authority area). In subsequent years (2007/08, 2008/9 and 2009/10), the survey sample has been more than 190,000 adults (a minimum of 500 interviews in every local authority area).
3. On 14 April 2008 the scope of the survey was extended to collect data for participation in cultural activities for the purposes of National Indicators 9, 10 and 11.
4. For NI8 the fieldwork for this data release was conducted between April 2009 and April 2010 for counties and authorities that opted for a boosted sample for that survey; and between April 2008 and April 2010 for the rest of the authorities.
5. Data in the NI8 workbook reflects local government structures post April 2009. It also includes results for local authority areas that were in existence immediately prior to the April 2009 reorganisation.
6. The survey measures involvement in activities where the purpose is for recreation or leisure, including informal learning and studying or research for personal interests. It excludes involvement in activities where the prime motivation is paid work, formal education or formal volunteering.
7. Participation in sport and active recreation covers a wide range of activities, including recreational walking and cycling. The effort put into the activity needs to be of moderate intensity, i.e. raises the breathing rate (or for walking it needs to be done at a brisk or fast pace). The only exception to this is for those adults aged 65 and over, where some light intensity activities are in scope as they are considered to be of moderate intensity for this age group – indoor and outdoor bowls, yoga, Pilates, croquet and archery.

For NI8 the range figure represents the joint confidence interval for the APS1 and either the APS3/4 or APS2/3/4 result. This means that for a change to be considered statistically significant with 95% confidence it must exceed the range.

8. The difference between the baseline estimate and the final estimate must be statistically significant at the 95% level. This means the probability that the difference happened by chance is low (1 in 20).
9. A number of factors will affect the level of change required in order for the survey to register a statistically significant change from the baseline. One of

these is the number of interviews conducted – the greater the size the more sensitive it is to detecting change. Another factor is the baseline percentage, with those nearer to 50 per cent requiring more change to occur.

10. ‘Don’t know’ responses have been included in the total count, although in most cases these were less than 0.1 per cent.

11. For more information about the Active People Survey, see:  
[http://www.sportengland.org/research/active\\_people\\_survey.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey.aspx)

12. For more information about National Indicators for local authorities, see:  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/performanceframeworkpartnerships/nationalindicators/>

13. DCMS also collects data on participation in culture and sport via its national household survey, Taking Part. Assessment of progress against national performance targets is measured using the Taking Part survey. See  
[http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/research\\_and\\_statistics/4828.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/research_and_statistics/4828.aspx)

14. The fieldwork for the survey is being conducted by Ipsos MORI. For more information, see: <http://www.ipsos-mori.com/>

15. We can also provide documents to meet the specific requirements of people with disabilities. Please call 020 7211 6000 or email [enquiries@culture.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@culture.gov.uk)

16. This report has been produced by the Taking Part team. Acknowledgement goes to colleagues within the DCMS, partner NDPBs and Ipsos-MORI for their assistance with the quality assurance. For enquiries contact:

Department for Culture Media and Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London  
SW1Y 5DH  
[enquiries@culture.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@culture.gov.uk)

The responsible statistician is Neil Wilson

For enquiries on this release telephone: 0207 211 6968

For general enquiries telephone: 0207 211 6200